

Message Text

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17 10

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20 SY-10 USSS-00

EB-11 DOTE-00 FAA-00 CAB-09 JUSE-00 COME-00 SCA-01

DRC-01 /171 W

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P 070708Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9848

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1753

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS JA

SUBJ: GOJ ATTITUDE TOWARD SINGAPORE TERRORISTS

1. EMBOFF MET ON AFTERNOON FEB 6 WITH FONOFF SECOND
SEA DIV HEAD FUJITA TO DISCUSS SINGAPORE TERRORIST
EPISODE AND GOJ REACTIONS. SEVERAL ASPECTS OF
DISCUSSION BECAME OBE AS TERRORIST ATTACKED
JAPANESE EMBASSY IN KUWAIT, BUT SUBSTANCE IS BEING
REPORTED AS USEFUL BACKGROUND FOR INTERPRETING
FUTURE GOJ DECISIONS.

2. FUJITA SAID THAT GOJ POSITION FROM OUTSET OF
SINGAPORE EPISODE HAS BEEN THAT WHILE GOJ REGRETS
INVOLVEMENT OF JAPANESE NATIONALS, TERRORIST ACTS
TOOK PLACE IN SINGAPORE AND WERE, THEREFORE,
ENTIRELY WITHIN JURISDICTION OF GOS, WHICH SHOULD
ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESOLVING
SITUATION. GOJ WOULD, OF COURSE, BE WILLING
TO ASSIST, AND IN THIS SPIRIT GOJ AMBASSADOR
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HAD BECOME INVOLVED AS INTERPRETER BETWEEN

TERRORISTS AND GOS REPRESENTATIVES. FUJITA EXPRESSED SOME ANNOYANCE WITH GOS POSITION WHICH, ACCORDING TO HIM, HAD BEEN TO GRANT TERRORISTS SAFE EXIT FROM SINGAPORE BUT SHIFT BURDEN OF ONWARD ARRANGEMENTS TO GOJ. FUJITA SAID GOS REPS HAD TALKED WITH JAPANESE AMBASSADOR AS THOUGH PROPOSAL FOR TERRORISTS TO GIVE UP WEAPONS IN EXCHANGE FOR AIRCRAFT HAD ORIGINATED WITH GOJ, WHICH WAS NOT THE CASE.

3. FUJITA SAID GOJ HAD SENT TWO POLICE OFFICERS TO SINGAPORE TO BE ON HAND IN UNLIKELY CASE THAT TERRORISTS WOULD WISH TO RETURN TO JAPAN. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UNDER JAPANESE LAW TERRORISTS COULD BE TRIED IN JAPAN FOR ACTS COMMITTED IN SINGAPORE. FUJITA SAID TERRORISTS LEARNED OF POLICE ARRIVAL IN SINGAPORE THROUGH NEWSPAPERS AND RADIOS PROVIDED TO THEM BY GOS, AND THAT TERRORISTS HAD OBJECTED VERY STRENUOUSLY. FUJITA SUGGESTED THIS ATTITUDE OF TERRORISTS EXPLAINED WHY GOS AUTHORITIES HAD TREATED JAPANESE POLICE OFFICERS RATHER COOLY, SO MUCH SO THAT THEY RETURNED TO TOKYO ON FEB 5 WHEN THEIR PRESENCE IN SINGAPORE HAD PROVEN NOT TO BE PRODUCTIVE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, FUJITA SAID THAT IF TERRORISTS SUCCEEDED IN REACHING ARAB COUNTRY, GOJ WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO ASK FOR THEIR EXTRADITION TO JAPAN. HE ADMITTED THAT GOJ IS CERTAINLY NOT ANXIOUS FOR THEM TO RETURN BECAUSE OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS THEIR TRIAL AND INCARCERATION WOULD CREATE.

5. EMBOFF USED OPPORTUNITY OF CONVERSATION TO REMIND FUJITA THAT USG HAS LONG BELIEVED THAT CLOSE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND VIGOROUS RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IS ONLY WAY THAT PLAGUE CAN BE PREVENTED FROM SPREADING. EMBOFF SUGGESTED, AND FUJITA AGREED, THAT WHEN PRESENT

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EPISODE IS OVER, GOJ MIGHT BE MORE INCLINED THAN IT HAS IN PAST TO PARTICIPATE IN DETAILED CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S. ON FULL RANGE OF PROBLEMS CREATED BY TERRORISM.
SHOESMITH

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